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U.S. Intends to Name 25 Soviets for Recall From United Nations

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The Reagan administration, in an effort to pressure Moscow to allow American journalist Nicholas Daniloff to return to the United States, intends to designate by name 25 Soviet employees of the Soviet mission at the United Nations who must be recalled by Oct. 1, sources said yesterday.

These sources said the action, which tentatively is scheduled to be announced at the State Department today, is meant to demonstrate that the administration has no intention of backing away from its position that Daniloff is innocent and should be released outright.

The Soviets have asked that Daniloff, charged with espionage, be traded for Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet U.N. employee who has been indicted on three counts of spying. Yesterday, at a hastily called news conference that appeared to be an effort by the Soviets to mirror Daniloff's session with reporters in Moscow on Saturday, Zakharov denied the charges and attributed his arrest to "an atmosphere of spy mania." [Details on Page A33.]

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, trying yesterday to assuage conservative critics of the administration's handling of the Daniloff case, said, "There will be shoes dropped as we go along and people should keep their powder dry."

An administration source said that the first of these "shoes" will be the designation of the Soviet officials who must be withdrawn from the United Nations to comply with a previous Reagan administration order. The directive calls for the Soviets to reduce the number of their

mission employees from 243 to 218 by Oct. 1, and to 170 employees within three years.

Last Friday the chief Soviet U.N. delegate, Alexander Belonogov, denounced the order as "absolutely illegal and running contrary to the

agreement between the United Nations and the U.S. government when our organization was established."

Even as the administration appeared to be taking a tougher line over the Daniloff case, diplomatic and State Department sources said that U.S. Ambassador Robert Barry had been given "flexibility" to compromise the last major issue standing in the way of an East-West agreement on the monitoring of troop movements in Europe. Thirty-five nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union, have been meeting for 2½ years in Stockholm in an effort to find agreement on so-called "confidence-building measures" aimed at reducing the risks of accidental war.

A senior administration official said that the United States was willing to accept use of Soviet aircraft for inspections of Soviet territory if U.S. navigation gear, binoculars and cameras were included on the on-site inspection missions. He said the State Department had advocated this position and that it had been accepted by the White House after being supported by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Central Intelligence Agency. The Pentagon disagreed, wanting the aircraft of neutral countries used in the inspections.

An administration official, asked about the contrast between U.S. flexibility on this issue and the firm stand taken on reduction of the Soviets' U.N. mission, replied, "We're trying to find a solution to the current difficulties without compromising our principles."

This official, who insisted that the U.S. positions on the U.N. mission and the Stockholm conference were unrelated, said that U.S. and Soviet negotiators were still exploring other possibilities to secure Daniloff's freedom, including the release of Soviet dissidents. Such releases also would not be directly linked to the Zakharov or Daniloff cases, he said.

Shultz yesterday made a conspicuous attempt to signal a hardening of the administration's attitude toward the Soviet Union over its refusal to free Daniloff. In appearances before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee and two private groups, the secretary of state stressed administration willingness to press for Daniloff's release even if the result were to jeopardize a prospective superpower summit this year.

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Shultz told a group of constituents of Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio) that "the prosecution of Zakharov by the United States would be pursued on its own merit independent of what effect it may or may not have on a summit." Shultz said that when he meets Friday with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, "on top of the agenda will be Mr. Daniloff." Shultz said he would spell out "in no uncertain terms" the administration's strong feelings about the matter.

But Shultz continued administration efforts to separate the Daniloff case from U.S.-Soviet discussions on arms control, regional issues and human rights. He indicated that he expected to discuss all these issues with Shevardnadze when they meet here.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes, who also made the point that the Daniloff case would be the first item on Shultz's agenda, said it had not been determined if President Reagan would meet separately with Shevardnadze.

Speakes also declined to provide details of the U.S. position at the Stockholm negotiations on an agreement to reduce the risk of accidental war, but repeated the administration's public position of a preference for inspections by aircraft from neutral nations. The senior official who disclosed the "flexibility" of the U.S. instructions, however, pointed out that if the agreement were signed, it would be the only East-West arms accord entered by the Reagan administration.

Volker Ruhe, the foreign policy spokesman for the West German government, told a luncheon in Washington yesterday that the importance of the Stockholm agreement is "underestimated" in the United States.

"It is an important first step and we should not stumble," said Ruhe, who contended that progress on this agreement could be extended to other arms control issues. He said that the Daniloff case should not be allowed to limit progress on other matters.

Washington Post staff writer Walter Pincus contributed to this report.